

[4th March 1927]

A.—No representations have been received by Government to throw open forest reserves for grazing cattle free. The attention of the hon. Member is however drawn to sections 182, 183 and 184 of the Madras Famine Code which permit Collectors of districts to allow free grazing of cattle in open areas and close reserves. The attention of the Collectors of those districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Sir, the last sentence in the answer to this question runs thus : 'The attention of the Collectors of those districts where the season has been bad has been drawn to these provisions.' May I know how far they have utilized the provisions of sections 182, 183 and 184 in my own district of Guntur? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have to ask for notice with regard to Guntur. I have information with regard to Kurnool and Cuddapah."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" May I know how they were utilized? Were any reserves thrown open for grazing? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Free grazing was permitted in Cuddapah, etc., and in Ongole one of the concessions granted was concession rates on railways for the transport of fodder."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" The hon. Member spoke of throwing open reserves for grazing. Is it a matter in which the Collectors move of their own accord or should they wait until they get mahazars or things of that sort? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" They move of their own accord."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" May I know whether free grazing is permitted in Bellary? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Public Service

Restrictive orders regarding qualifications for public service.

* 226 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to G.O. No. 965, Public, dated 16th November 1926—

(a) whether there was any general demand from heads of departments for the issue of restrictive orders contained in the Government Order referred to above;

(b) if so, whether the hon. Member will place the correspondence on the table;

(c) if not, whether the hon. Member will state what led to the issue of the said Government Order;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints that the said Government Order will tend to shut out from public service communities that are backward in education such as Muslims and depressed classes;

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(e) whether the Government are aware that the minimum fixed in the Government Order is much higher than that required by the University for eligibility to college course; and

(f) whether the Government propose to reconsider the matter and rescind the Government Order so as to give equal opportunities to all communities for public service?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have explained in the Government Order itself the reason for prescribing the standard: "No standard of marks has been prescribed with the result that many persons have been appointed who satisfy the letter of the rule but whose educational qualifications are of the slenderest."

No general demand from heads of departments was received.

(d) A few petitions have been received from Muhammadan and Adi-Dravida candidates for exemption from the operation of the Government Order.

(e) No.

(f) The Government do not propose to cancel the order which is not of the nature suggested.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"In their answer to clauses (a), (b) and (c), the Government state that no general demand from heads of departments was received. May I know, Sir, how the Government Order came to be conceived when there was no general demand from heads of departments?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"There were two circumstances. One was that some heads of departments had fixed certain standards and Government thought that there should be one standard for all. And the other circumstance was that when in connexion with the question of exemption of unpassed men lists were received of the men whom the heads of departments had exempted, Government found that there were varying views taken as to what constituted qualification and so they thought it would be better to fix a standard applicable to all."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Is it not the Education department that fixes as to what exactly is the meaning of a man who is an S.S.L.C.?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I do not follow the question, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member will please repeat the question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Is not the hon. Member aware that the Education department fixes what exactly is meant by an S.S.L.C.?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"So far as I know, there is no doubt about it."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"The Education department has stated clearly what S.S.L.C. means."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member may put a supplementary question. He need not give any information."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the hon. Member is not aware that the Education department has fixed what exactly is meant by a candidate who has got an S.S.L.C. ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That question has already been answered."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I have no doubt they have, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" The answer says: 'No standard of marks has been prescribed with the result that many persons have been appointed who satisfy the letter of the rule but whose educational qualifications are of the slenderest.' May I know whether there is any examination held before appointments are made and how then does this happen that people with the slenderest qualifications are appointed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" A low percentage of marks was considered enough."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" There is an . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Please put your supplementary question. Members are not allowed to preface their supplementary questions with any statements."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" There is an examination held before appointments are made. That being so, how do people with slenderest qualifications come to be appointed ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" That is the fault of the appointing officers and it is to cure that this rule is made."

11-45 a.m. Mr. D. THOMAS :—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether he will kindly place a copy of the Government Order on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think, Sir, that it has been placed on the table."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know how the petitions referred in clause (d) of the answer have been disposed of ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether educationally backward classes will be exempted from the operation of the Government Order ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. The Government will consider cases where exemption is recommended."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" With reference to the answer to clause (e), will the Government call for the information that is required and have light from the Education department or from the University as the case may be ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The answer is in the negative."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Does the hon. Member realize that it is a case of hardship for Muslims and other educationally backward classes to satisfy the requirements of the present Government Order ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir. No hardship at all."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ May I ask the hon. Member to call for the list of applicants for the various examinations that were held for their selection for the last one or two years or ever since the order was passed ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ Examinations for what, Sir ? ”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ Candidates from among the educationally backward communities who appeared for the Staff Selection Board.”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ The applications are available to Government if they want them.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ May I know whether the number of candidates has fallen low ever since this order was passed, especially among the backward communities ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I think, Sir, that those who were unsuitable were weeded out.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I ask whether this order has retrospective effect and whether it will affect only those that will enter service hereafter or to persons who are already in service and who hope to be confirmed ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ Hereafter. It has effect from the date of the issue of the Government Order.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I know whether it applies to persons who will pass the examination hereafter or to those who have already passed and who hope to get appointments ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ This appears to be a new reading of the Government Order. The order is meant to apply to those who obtain appointments in Government service from the date of the order.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Acting or permanent ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ Those who have been continuously in service for a certain period have been exempted from its operation.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know for what period ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I forget ; I must ask for notice.”

Secretariat

Tiffin room for the Secretariat staff.

* 227 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Secretariat staff have a room for taking their tiffin ;
- (b) what are the dimensions of the room now provided ;
- (c) what is the total number of clerks for whom it is meant ;
- (d) whether it is sufficient for the number of clerks that must resort to it within a particular hour ; and
- (e) what arrangements Government propose to make for the required accommodation ?